

**A SOCIOPRAGMATIC ANALYSIS ON COMMISSIVE  
UTTERANCES IN *PLATOON* MOVIE  
AND ITS SUBTITLE**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement  
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education  
in English Department**

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MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA  
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# **APPROVAL**

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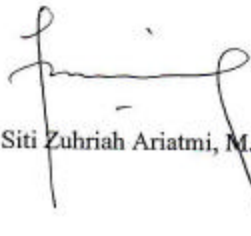
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# **A SOCIOPRAGMATIC ANALYSIS ON COMMISSIVE UTTERANCES IN *PLATOON* MOVIE AND ITS SUBTITLE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research aims at describing the variations of language form, the equivalence and non equivalence intention, and describes the politeness strategies of commissive utterances used in *Platoon* movie manuscripts and its subtitle. The result of the study shows that the language form of commissive utterances in *Platoon* movie manuscripts and its subtitle are 12,90% word is translated into word, 3,23% phrase is translated into phrase, 16,13% phrase is translated into word, 29,05% positive declarative sentence is translated into positive declarative sentence, 3,23% negative declarative sentence is translated into negative declarative sentence, 6,45% positive imperative sentence is translated into positive imperative sentence, 12,90% negative imperative sentence is translated into negative imperative sentence, 3,23% positive interrogative sentence is translated into positive interrogative sentence, 6,45% positive exclamatory sentence is translated into positive exclamatory sentence, and 6,45% positive conditional sentence is translated into positive conditional sentence. The intention of commissive utterances in *Platoon* movie manuscript and its subtitle are 58,06% warning, 9,69% offering, 6,45% volunteering, 12,90% threatening, and 12,90% refusing. The politeness strategies are 41,93% bald on record, 25,81% positive politeness, 16,13% negative politeness, and 16,13% off record strategy.

Key words: *socio pragmatics, pragmatics, commissive utterance, subtitle, equivalence, linguistics form, intention, politeness strategies.*

## **1. Introduction**

Commissive utterance is one of the utterances that are often produced in human communication. It is utterance that commits the speaker to some future course of action (Levinson, 1983:240). There are some kinds of utterance that are categorized in commissive utterance. They are warning, threatening, promising, refusing, volunteering and offering utterances. Commissive utterance can also be found in movie manuscript. There are some

movies presenting commissive utterance in their manuscripts. The movie manuscript is translated in some languages through subtitle. Subtitle is done to make the audience understand the dialogue in the movie. The subtitle in target language should be equivalent with the source language, in order that the story of the movie can be delivered well.

In this study the writer deals with analyzing commissive utterances in *Platoon* movie. This movie is an interesting movie telling about war. There are some commissive utterance found in the dialogue of *Platoon* movie. The writer wants to know the equivalence of the intention and politeness pattern of the commissive utterance found in those movie manuscript and its subtitle.

The problem statement of this research are “What are the variation of the language forms of commissive utterances in *Platoon* movie manuscript and its subtitle”; “How are the equivalence of the intention of commissive utterances in *Platoon* movie manuscript and its subtitle”; “How are the equivalence of the politeness pattern of commissive utterances in *Platoon* movie manuscript and its subtitle”.

The objectives of this research are to describe the variation of the language forms of commissive utterances in *Platoon* movie manuscript and its subtitle; to describe the equivalence of the intention of commissive utterances in *Platoon* movie manuscript and its subtitle; and to describe the equivalence of the politeness pattern of commissive utterances in *Platoon* movie manuscript and its subtitle.

To prove the originality of this study, the writer wants to present the previous study dealing with this topic. The first research was conducted by Yulianti (UMS, 2010) entitled *Translation Analysis of Promising Utterances in the Novel Twilight Translated into Twilight (Pragmatic Perspective)*. The result of study shows that: first, the translation variation of language forms of promising utterances are word translated to word, word translated to phrase, positive declarative sentence translated to positive declarative sentence,

negative declarative sentence translated to negative declarative sentence, and positive declarative sentence translated to negative declarative sentence. Second, the implicatures found are conventional and conversational implicature and also in the form of equivalent and non-equivalent. Third, the politeness strategies of directive utterance are: Bald on Record, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness and Off-Record strategy. The second previous study is conducted by Sundari (UMS, 2009) entitled *A Pragmatic Analysis on Commissive Utterances in Aristocratic Movie Manuscript*. The study shows the variety of the sentence type, implicature, and politeness pattern of commissive utterances used in Aristocratic movie manuscript. The variants types of sentences are: (1) declarative, (2) interrogative, and (3) imperative. The implicature of the study covers implied meaning of conventional implicature and conversational implicature, those are offering, volunteering, promising, swear, refusing, threatening, warning, and forbidding utterance. The politeness patterns are bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record.

The researches above have similarity and differences with this research. The difference between this research and the first previous study is about the data and object. The object of the first previous study only focuses on promising utterances, while this study focuses on commissive utterance that includes warning, threatening, promising and offering. The data of the first previous study is taken from novel and its translation. In this study, the writer takes the data from *Platoon* movie manuscript and its subtitle.

However, both of them have similarity. The similarity with the previous one is that the research about translation and pragmatic. The second previous study has difference in the object. The object of the second previous research is commissive utterance found in Aristocratic movie manuscript. In this study, the object is commissive utterance found in *Platoon* movie manuscript. However, this study has similarity with the previous one in the field of the study. The studies are about pragmatic.

## **2. Research Finding**

This research uses descriptive qualitative. The data are 31 data which deal with commissive utterances taken from *Platoon* movie manuscript and its Indonesian subtitle. Meanwhile, the data source of this research is *Platoon* movie manuscript and its subtitle.

The techniques of collecting data are documentation and observation in collecting the data. The procedures are: 1) Watching *Platoon* movie; 2) Reading the manuscript of *Platoon* movie and its Indonesian subtitle; 3) Underlying the movie manuscript and its subtitle containing commissive utterance; 4) Retyping the data found in the movie manuscript and its subtitle; and 5) Coding the data using the system (001/PLT).

Technique for analyzing data are: 1) Clarifying the form of commissive utterance into certain categories by referring linguistic form; 2) Describing the intention of commissive utterances by applying Austin's speech act theory; 3) Clarifying the politeness strategies by employing four types of politeness strategy of Brown and Levinson; and 4) Drawing conclusion and suggestion based on data analysis.

## **3. Findings and Discussion**

In this section, the writer discusses the research findings found in *Platoon* movie and its subtitle.

- 1) Variation of the Language Form

The writer analyzes the data by using the theory of language form by Marcella Frank. In the analysis on language form of commissive utterances, the writer finds that from 31 data, there are four (4) data which is categorized into word that is translated into word, with the percentage 12,90 %, one (1) data which is phrase that is translated into phrase with the percentage 3,23 %, five (5) data which is phrase that is translated into word with the percentage 16,13 %, ten (10) data which is positive declarative sentence that is translated into positive declarative sentence with the percentage 32,26 %, one (1) data which is negative declarative sentence that is translated into negative declarative sentence with the percentage 3,23 %, three (3) data which is positive imperative sentence that is translated into positive imperative sentence with the percentage 9,69 %, four (4) data which is negative imperative sentence that is subtitled into negative imperative sentence with the percentage 12,90 %, one (1) data which is positive interrogative sentence that is translated into positive interrogative sentence with the percentage 3,23 %, 2 (two) data which is positive conditional sentence that is translated into positive conditional sentence with the percentage 6,45 %. Below is the example of the analysis:

**003/PLT**

EXT. AMBUSH - CHRIS POSITION – NIGHT (RAIN)

Later, close on Chris being shaken awake.

SL:

TEX : (suspicious)

You sure you know how to work the claymore?

CHRIS : (offended)

Sure.



TEX : Okay. **Don't catch no zzz's on me buddy, or I'll sling your motherfucking ass.** You hear me?

CHRIS : (grits his teeth)  
Yeah.

TL:

TEX : Kamu tahu cara mematikan ranjau?

CHRIS : Tentu.

TEX : Ok. **Jangan tidur ya, atau awas kamu.** Kamu dengar?

CHRIS : Ya.

The utterance “**Don't catch no zzz's on me buddy, or I'll sling your motherfucking ass.**” in source language is in the form of negative imperative sentence. It is marked by negative marker “*don't*” and the verb “*catch*”. This sentence is categorized into compound sentence. Compound sentence is a sentence which contains two independent clauses joined by a coordinator. In this case, the first clause is “*don't catch no zzz's on me buddy*” and the second clause is “*or I'll sling your motherfucking ass*”. These two clauses are connected by the connecting word “*or*”.

In the target language (TL) the utterance “**jangan tidur ya, atau awas kamu**” is also in the form of negative imperative sentence. It is marked by a negative marker “*jangan*” and the verb “*tidur*”. That sentence is categorized into compound sentence. The first clause is “*jangan tidur ya.*” and the second clause is “*atau awas kamu*”. These two clauses are connected by the word “*atau*”. Both source language (SL) and target language (TL) have the equivalence meaning and equivalence form of sentence. In the source language, the sentence is categorized into compound sentence and in TL is also categorized as compound sentence. Both SL and TL belong to threatening utterance, because the speaker “Tex” threatens the hearer “Chris” in order not to sleep. If the hearer does not do what the speaker said, the speaker will do something that harm the hearer.

## 2) Equivalence of Intention

The writer analyzes the intention of commissive utterance by referring Austin's speech act theory. From the analysis, the writer finds all data have equivalence intention between SL and TL. The intention are warning, refusing, offering, threatening and volunteering. The writer finds 18 (eighteen) data which intend warning, with the percentage 58,06 %, three (3) data which intend offering, with the percentage 9,69 %, two (2) data which intend volunteering, with the percentage 6,45%, four (4) data which intend threatening, with the percentage 12,90 %, and four (4) data which intend refusing, with the percentage 12,90 %.

Below is the example of the analysis:

### 024/PLT

#### EXT. COMPANY CP - DUSK – MORNING

At the company, Elias, Captain Harris, Barnes, Lt. Wolfe are huddled. Close on Harris, looking from face to face, assuming a judicial attitude.

SL:

ELIAS : My report Sir, will include LT. Wolfe as being witness to the shooting..

HARRIS : All right, Elias. Sergeant Barnes, I want a report from you.

BARNES : You got it Sir, and I can throw in plenty of eye-witnesses if you want Sir.

HARRIS : *Not now*. We'll get into this when we get back to base camp. Right now I need every man in the field, I want your guys to stick together. .. Elias? Barnes? You hear me? This is no time for fighting with each other.

TL:

ELIAS : Laporanku akan termasuk LT. Wolfe sebagai saksi Pak.

HARRIS : Baiklah Elias. Barnes, aku ingin laporan darimu.

BARNES : Siap Pak, dan saya punya banyak saksi mata jika Anda inginkan.

HARRIS : *Tidak sekarang*. Kita akan membahasnya ketika kita kembali ke markas. Sekarang saya butuh semua orang disini. Elias? Barnes? Kalian mendengarku? Tidak ada waktu lagi untuk bersiteru.

Locution : The speaker "Harris" said that he and Barnes will discuss about the eye-witnesses not at that time but when they get back to base camp.

Illocution : The speaker refuses the eye-witnesses that is offered by Barnes.

Perlocution: Barnes will bring the eye-witnesses when they get back to base camp.

The utterance in SL intends that "*Harris*" refuses the eye-witnesses that is offered by the hearer "*Barnes*" at that time. He wants to discuss that with Barnes and Elias when they get back to base camp. The utterance in TL also intends refusing. The speaker refuses to be given the eye-witnesses at that time, but he wants them when he get back to base camp. Both source language (SL) and target language (TL) have the equivalence intention. Both of them intends refusing.

### 3) Equivalence of Politeness Strategy

In this analysis, the writer only finds data which have equivalence of politeness strategies so that the analysis only concerns in the equivalence on politeness strategies. The writer uses theory of politeness proposed by Levinson. The writer finds 13 data equivalences which is bald on record. It has 41,93 % of percentage, seven (7) data equivalence that is positive politeness with the percentage 22,58 %, five (5) data that is negative politeness. It has 16,13 % of percentage, six (6) data that is off-record strategy. It has 19,35 % of percentage. Below is the analysis:

## 016/ PLT

### INT. THE BARRACKS – NIGHT

Lt. WOLFE wanders down the aisle, beer in hand, slightly lonely, by passing FU SHENG, the Hawaiian and TONY, a mustached hairy-browed Italian kid from Boston, who are playing some kind of dice game. They hardly acknowledge the Lieutenant who stops by RODRIGUEZ, the Mexican-American kid who is on his cot in his neatly arranged area

writing a letter home with a pencil, forming his words with his mouth, as always minding his own business. Religious objects comprise his few decorations.

SL:

LIEUTENANT WOLFE : (amiable)  
How you doing Rodriguez?

RODRIGUEZ : Good Sir.

WOLFE : **Need anything?**

RODRIGUEZ : No Sir.

TL:

LETNAN WOLFE : Apa kabar Rodriguez?

RODRIGUEZ : Baik Pak.

WOLFE : **Butuh sesuatu?**

RODRIGUEZ : Tidak Pak.

The utterance “*Need anything?*” in the source language (SL) is uttered by Lieutenant Wolfe to Rodriguez. That offering utterance belongs to Off-record strategy, because the speaker tries to remove the pressure of the threat. Even though Wolfe more superior than Rodriguez, he tends to keep the pressure in order Rodriguez not to be afraid to ask something if he need.

In the target language (TL), the utterance “*Butuh sesuatu?*” is also uttered by Wolfe to Rodriguez. That utterance also belongs to off-record strategy, because the speaker tries to remove the pressure of the threat.

Between source language (SL) and the target language (TL) have the equivalence politeness strategies. Both of them belong to off record strategy, because the speaker tries to remove the pressure of the threat.

#### 4. Conclusion and Suggestion

Based on the data analysis and the discussion the writer gets the followings conclusions:

1. The writer finds the variation of language forms of commissive utterances in *Platoon* movie manuscripts and its translation is in the form of words, phrases and sentences. By using the types of sentence, the result proves

that the most dominant types of sentence are finding in the commissive utterances and its translation is in the form of positive declarative sentences which is translated into positive declarative sentence.

2. The writer finds that the intentions of commissive utterances in *Platoon* movie and its translation are warning, offering, volunteering, threatening and refusing. By using the theory of speech act proposed by Austin, the result proves that most of the commissive utterance intends warning.
3. The equivalence of politeness strategies in *Platoon* movie manuscripts and its translation is divided into four parts. That is bald on-record, politeness strategies, negative politeness, and off-record strategies. The most dominant politeness pattern of commissive utterances in *Platoon* movie and its translation is in the form of bald of record.

After draw the conclusion, the writer offers some of suggestions, those are:

1. To the students of English department, the writer hopes that they do some similar analysis of commissive utterances from the other point of view such as from semantics or sociolinguistics view.
2. To the teacher, the writer hopes that in the future, this analysis can be useful for the additional knowledge in teaching pragmatics especially in the analysis of utterance.

The writer hopes that the result of this study can be useful as references for other researcher who intends to analyze commissive utterances and its subtitle.

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